ARTICLES of ENQUIRY

Exhibited to the

Miniſters and Church-wardens of every Pariſh

Within the Juriſdiction of

The Right Reverend Father in God,

GUY Lord Biſhop of *BRISTOL,*

In his firſt Epiſcopal Viſitation;

Begun the two and twentieth day of *September*, in the ſecond year of his Conſecration; and in the year of our Lord, M.DC.LXXIII.

LEVIT. XIX. 12. *Ye ſhall not ſwear by my name falſly.*
EXOD. XX. 7. *For the Lord will not hold him guiltleſs that taketh his Name in vain.*

LONDON: Printed for *Henry Brome.* 1673.

The Tenor of the Oath to be Miniſtred to the Church-wardens and Side-men.

Your Oath is,

THat you the *Church-wardens for your parts, and you the Side-men for your parts, ſhall well and faithfully execute and perform your ſeveral Places and Offices reſpectively, for this your Pariſh for this year following, in all things according to the Uſe and Cuſtom there, and the Law in that behalf: And alſo duly and truly to preſent all ſuch Crimes and Offences (puniſhable by the Laws and Canons of the Church of* England,) *which upon view and Conſideration of theſe Articles given you in charge, by fame, report or otherwiſe (by your diligent enquiry) ſhall come to your knowledge or notice; all favour and affection, hatred and malice, or ſiniſter reſpect ſet apart.* So help you God and the Contents of this Holy Goſpel of Jeſus Chriſt.

Direction to the Clergy.

YOU are earneſtly deſired to read theſe Articles diſtinctly unto the Church-wardens, and to admoniſh them of their Duty, ſo often as you ſee occaſion; but eſpecially come together before the times of making up and giving in their Preſentments, and confer with them and direct them about their ſaid Preſentments, that Perjury may the better be prevented on their parts.

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GUY Lord Biſhop of BRISTOL.

Concerning the Kings Majeſties Authority in Cauſes Eccleſiaſtical.

1. HAVE you any in your Pariſh that oppugn or gainſay any part of His Majeſties Supremacy in Cauſes Eccleſiaſtical?

2. HAVE you any that affirm, that the Civil Magiſtrate ought not to preſcribe any thing to Eccleſiaſtical perſons in or about the publick Worſhip of God?

Of the Church of *England*.

1. DO any in your Pariſh affirm, that the Church of England, as now by Law eſtabliſhed, is not a true Apoſtolical Church, but do reproach the ſame as Antichriſtian?

2. HAVE you any that affirm, that the Book of Common-Prayer now eſtabliſhed by Law, conteineth any thing in it that is ſuperſtitious and contrary to the Word of God; and therefore that godly men ought not to approve, or ſubſcribe, or hear the ſame read at the publick Worſhip of God?

Concerning Ministers.

1. DOes any take upon him to read the Prayers in your Churches or Chappels, who is not admitted into sacred Orders Canonically, that is, by Episcopal Ordination? And hath he subscribed and read, and openly declared his Assent and Consent to the Use of the whole Book of Common Prayer according to the late Act of Uniformity?

2. DOTH your Minister read Prayers according to the Rubrick, or doth he of his own head alter any Prayer or Collect in the publick Liturgy, or doth he omit any appointed to be read in regard of Preaching or any other respect? And doth he wear the Surplice and other Ornaments appointed according to his degree in time of Officiating?

3. DOES he duly administer the holy Sacraments according to the Forms prescribed and enjoined in the Book of Common Prayer? And particularly doth he use the sign of the Cross in Baptism? And doth he give due warning before the Holy Communion, that his Parishioners may the better prepare themselves solemnly and devoutly for the receiving of it?

4. WHETHER doth he marry any parties without thrice asking the Banes in the Church on three several Lords days or Holi-days, except they have procured a Licence from the Bishop, or such as have Authority to grant them? Have you had or have any clandestine Marriages in your Parish?

5. WHETHER doth your Minister duly Catechise upon the Lords days and Holi-days after the second Lesson at Evening Prayer, and whether doth he duly reside upon his Benefice, and keep his Parsonage House and Chancel in good repair, if it belong unto him of right so to do?

6. DOTH he being in Holy Orders go otherwise in apparel, than is commanded by the 74. Canon? Is he diligent in his Ministry, and of sober Conversation?

7. DOTH he observe the three Rogation-Days?

Con-

Concerning the Church and Church-Yard.

1. HAVE you in your Church a large Bible of the last English Translation; as also a fair Book of Common Prayer, as is enjoined by the late Act of Uniformity, with the Book of Homilies and Bishop Jewel's Works, together with a Book of Canons, and a Table of Marriage, with the degrees prohibited by the Law of God conteined in it?

2. HAVE you a decent Pulpit and Reading Pue for the Minister to read Prayers in? And have you a Font of Stone conbenientlp placed in the usual part of the Church? Have you a decent Communion-Table with a seemly Covering of Silk or other Stuff at all times, and a fine Linen Cloth at the time when the Holy Sacrament is administred? And are the Ten Commandments set up in some conbenient place in your Church, with the Creed, the Lords Prayer, and some choice Sentences of Scripture?

3. HAVE you a Chest for Alms, and another with Locks and Keys to keep the Register-Book and other Church Furniture? Have you a Register-Book of Christenings, Weddings and Burials? And are the Names of all persons baptized, married and buried, written therein by the Minister? And doth he and the Church-wardens subscribe their Names to ebery Page, transmitting a Copy thereof into the Bishops Registry?

4. WHETHER is your Church kept in due reparation, as well within as without? Are the Seats well maintein'd, the Steeple and Bells preserbed, the Windows well glazed, the Floor well paved, and all other things in order, as is meet for the House of God?

5. WHETHER is your Church-yard kept well fenced, and are not Hogs suffered to come in and root in the same, to the Scandal of the living, and the Dishonour of the Dead?

6. IS there a Terrier of the Glebe-Lands belonging to your Church?

Of

Of Church-wardens and Side-men.

ARE your Church-wardens chosen by the Minister and Parishioners, the Minister chusing one? And did your Church-wardens at the end of the year, give up a just and true account of the moneys they had received in relation to the Church or Poor?

2. DID your former Church wardens (as now you must) provide a sufficient quantity of fine Bread and good Wine, as oft as there was a Communion?

Of Parish-Clerks.

1. HAVE you a Parish-Clerk chosen by the Minister, and fit to perform the Office of a Parish Clerk?

Concerning the Parishioners.

1. IS there any in your Parish that being sixteen years of age, doth not receive the Sacrament of the Lords Supper at least three times in the year, of which Easter ought to be one?

2. ARE any in your Parish disturbers of Divine Service, Sectaries or Seducers of the Kings Liege people from their obedience to the King, Laws, and the established Canons of the Church?

3. DO your Parishioners behave themselves reverently in the House of God, sitting with their Heads uncovered? Do they stand up at the Creed, and the reading of the Gospel?

4. ARE there any that prophane the Holy Communion Table by sitting upon it or throwing their Hats upon it, or any such irreverence?

5. WHETHER have you any in your Parish that keep private Conventicles, and what are their Names? Do you convince them before some Justice of the Peace that the Law may be executed upon them?

6. DID your former Church-wardens (as you also must in your time) observe diligently what irregular persons or Non-Conformists absent themselves from their own Parish Church? And did they (as you

you must) repair to the Justices of the Peace, for their Warrants to levy twelve pence (for every such absence) upon the Goods of such persons, according as by the Law is required?

7. HAVE you any in your Parish that refuse to bring their Children to be Baptized by the Minister according to the Book of Common Prayer? Who are they, and how long have they done so?

8. ARE any idle persons suffered to loiter either in the Churchyard or Church-Porch, in the time of Divine Service or Sermon?

9. HAVE you a School-master in your Parish? Hath he a Licence from the Bishop to teach School? Doth he instruct his Scholars in the Church Catechism as well as humane Learning?

10. DOTH your School-master upon the Lords days and other Holi days bring his Scholars to Church with him to hear the Common Prayers and Sermons, and see that they behave themselves orderly and decently during the time of Divine Service and Sermon, and examine them at convenient times what they remember of those Sermons?

11. IS there any in your Parish either known or vehemently suspected of Adultery, Fornication, Incest? Are there any common Swearers or Drunkards, Rebels or Sectaries, or seditious Persons? You are to present all such, knowing that the Discharge of your Duty herein is a means to reform such Disorders in your Parish, and to prevent the Judgments of God from falling on the same: And you are to bring your Presentments in, together with this Book at this present sitting of the Court, and not expect further time to be given you, to prevent future neglect and charge.

GUY BRISTOL.

FINIS.